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Advocating the interests of the Fifth Switzerland

It would be difficult to name all members of parliament who promote the interests of Swiss Abroad. Our list is limited to those who are members in Switzerland of the Council for the Swiss Abroad and are standing for re-election on 19 October.

State Councillor

Filippo Lombardi (CVP, Ticino)



Born in Bellinzona in 1956, Filippo Lombardi has been a member of the Council of States since 1999. He is a member of the Committee for Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy, the Committee for Transport and Telecommunications, and the Editing Committee. He is also President of the Ticino deputation to the federal councils.

He first became politically active with the young Christian Democrats. Between 1977 and 1980 he was Vice President of the CVP Youth Movement in the Ticino and a member of the Swiss Young CVP committee. Between 1981 and 1987 he worked as general secretary of the young Christian Democrats of Europe in Brussels and was international president of the Young Christian Democrats. Between 1995 and 1998 he was a member of the executive office of the International Christian Democrats.

As a qualified lawyer resident in Massagno, Filippo Lombardi is the founder and general director of the private TV channel Tele Ticino and president of Telesuisse, the association of regional Swiss television companies.

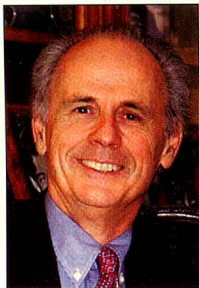
In December 2002, as a Swiss-resident member of the Council for the Swiss Abroad, Filippo Lombardi expressed particular concern about the fate of Swiss nationals in Argentina. He called on the Federal Council to "recalculate voluntary AHV/IV contributions for Swiss living in Argentina in order to adjust their contribution obligations to the eco-

nomic situation" i.e. to raise the payments made to them. However, the proposal was rejected.

(home page: www.filippo-lombardi.ch)

National Councillor

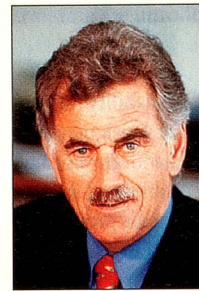
Jacques-Simon Eggly (LPS, Geneva)



Born in Geneva in 1942, this Liberal candidate is a long-serving member of the National Council, having been elected to it for the first time in 1983. Between 1977 and 1983 he was a member of the canton of Geneva State Council. Currently he also sits on the Security Policy Committee and the Committee for Legal Issues and was president of the Liberal Party of Switzerland (LPS) until 2002. In his capacity as a lawyer, Jacques-Simon Eggly currently commentates for the French-speaking daily newspaper "Le Temps", and was formerly a columnist for the "Journal de Genève". He is also Vice President of the OSA: "Our compatriots' participation in the political life of our country is very important to me." During the December 2002 parliamentary session he was among the first representatives to call on the Federal Council to adjust AHV/IV contributions for Swiss nationals in Argentina following the sharp fall in the value of the Argentinean Peso. He was also a co-signatory of a related parliamentary motion submitted in March.

National Councillor

Johannes Randegger (FDP, Basle City)



Born in Davos (GR) in 1941 and resident in Bettingen (BS), Johannes Randegger has been a member of the parliamentary faction of the Radical Free Democratic Party of Switzerland (FDP)

since 1995. He sits on the Commission for Science, Education and Culture and the Commission for Legal Issues.

He studied chemistry and now works as a business consultant. Johannes Randegger is active on a number of committees for education, energy, environment and research and, among other things, is Chairman of the Board of Centrepulse Ltd, President of the Novartis Foundation for sustainable development and education, and member of the research committee of "économie Suisse" and the Swiss Science Council.

An especially noteworthy action of Johannes Randegger was his parliamentary speech in favour of increasing the budget for Swiss schools abroad: an issue to which he is fully committed: "As part of my activities in the interests of education I am also committed to campaigning for reasonable funding for Swiss schools abroad."

National Councillor

Liliane Maury Pasquier (SPS, Geneva)



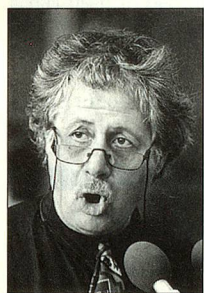
Born in Geneva in 1956, this committed feminist and member of the Social Democratic Party of Switzerland (SPS) was elected to the National Council in 1995. She is a member of the Committee for Social Security and Health and the Editing Committee. A midwife by profession and active mainly on issues concerning health, development and the envi-

ronment, she launched her political career as a member of the community council of Veyrier (1983–1992) and was elected to the State Council of Geneva in 1993 (until 1995). In autumn 2002, along with Micheline Calmy-Rey, she was put forward as a candidate for successor to the Social Democrat Federal Councillor Ruth Dreyfuss, but lost out to her Geneva colleague.

As a member of the Council for the Swiss Abroad, Liliane Maury Pasquier is always ready to listen to the concerns of the Fifth Switzerland: "In their everyday lives, Swiss Abroad experience life in other countries from a personal perspective. In so doing they can act as ambassadors for Switzerland and help to raise our country's presence in the world. I want them to have the opportunity to forge good contacts with our country."

National Councillor

Remo Galli (CVP, Berne)



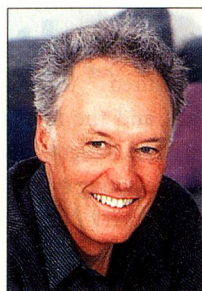
Remo Galli, born in Berne in 1943, was elected to the National Council in 1999 and is a member of the Foreign Policy Committee and the Committee for Science, Education and Culture.

An architect by profession and a resident of Spiegel, a suburb of Berne, Remo Galli founded a PR agency in 1992. His offices include the chairmanship of Aqua Viva and membership of the board of the Swiss Heritage Society and the Switzerland-Israel Society. But first and foremost he is President of the AJAS, the Association for the Promotion of the Education of Young Swiss Abroad, in which office he energetically promotes education opportunities for young Swiss Abroad. Commenting on his role as member of the Council for the Swiss Abroad, he says: "Swiss Abroad are ambassadors for our country. For this reason I am convinced that their support can help us to contribute to improving Switzerland's image abroad."

(home page: www.gallipromotion.ch)

National Councillor

Remo Gysin (SPS, Basle City)



Born in Basle in 1945, Remo Gysin has represented the Social Democratic Party of Switzerland (SPS) on the National Council since 1995. He is a member of the Foreign Policy Committee and the Committee for Economy and Taxes. He is also Co-President of the parliamentary "Switzerland-International Solidarity" group and heads the "Parliamentarians for Global Action" group.

The national economist and trade unionist (member of the VPOD, the civil servants' union) is an independent consultant for public and private enterprises. As a dedicated supporter of Switzerland's membership of the UN and a spokesman for poor countries, Remo Gysin is committed to the fight against corruption. He was a co-initiator of the federal people's initiative for Switzerland's membership of the UN and is a member of the board of the "Aktion Finanzplatz Schweiz – Dritte Welt" network and the foundation board of the Swissaid relief agency. But first and foremost he is a Swiss-resident member of the Council for the Swiss Abroad, because "solidarity does not end at the national frontier. Swiss Abroad form a bridge between Switzerland the rest of the world." He is concerned about the fate of Swiss living in Argentina and is author of the parliamentary motion submitted to the Federal Council in March, calling for a re-evaluation of the AHV/IV contributions in order to address the economic situation of Swiss resident in Argentina.

(home page: www.gysinbasel.ch)

National Councillor

Rosmarie Zapfl (CVP, Zurich)



Born in Rapperswil (SG) in 1939, Rosmarie Zapfl has represented the Christian Democratic Party of Switzerland (CVP) on the National Council since 1995. She is a member of the Foreign Policy Committee, the Swiss Delegation to the European Council and the EFTA Delegation to the European Parliament.

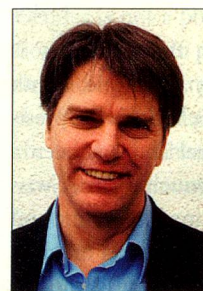
As a businesswoman Rosmarie Zapfl is also Chairperson of the Board of the "Third World Solidarity" Foundation in Vevey, President of the Working Group of Catholic Educational Institutes and Chairperson of the Board of the University Foundation for Social Work in Zurich. In addition to women's issues and social matters, her interests focus mainly on the elderly and the Third World. She was also co-president of the committee responsible for the initiative for Swiss membership of the UN.

A long-standing Swiss-resident member of the Council for the Swiss Abroad, Rosmarie Zapfl submitted a parliamentary motion in 1999 calling for "better organisation of the voting procedure for Swiss Abroad, to provide Swiss expatriate nationals with the best possible conditions under which they can exercise their right to vote".

(home page: www.zapfl.ch)

National Councillor

Yves Guisan (FDP, Vaud)



Born in Lausanne in 1941 and resident in L'Etivaz, Yves Guisan represents the Radical Free Democratic Party of Switzerland (FDP) in the National Council. The senior registrar is a member of the Committee for Science, Education and Culture and the Committee for Social Security and Health. He also sits on the Central Committee of the Association of Swiss Doctors (FMH) and the Swiss Committee for Health Care Statistics. Yves Guisan is also Vice President of the Association of Swiss Doctors and the Swiss Hospitals Association.

As a Swiss-resident member of the OSA, the former Swiss Abroad (who lived in Canada for several years), is interested in the concerns of his compatriots abroad. He is particularly concerned with the sweeping changes which the bilateral agreements with the EU will bring about, especially "in the field of social insurance, where an irrational degree of pressure is now manifesting itself."

(home page: www.yvesguisan.ch)

Lisbeth Fehr and Christophel Brändli, the two current SVP representatives and Councillors, are standing down.

IE/gk